

Hongkong Daily Press.

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1945

THE HOME MAILS.

TO DEPART.

ESTIMATIONS

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HONGKONG.

'WAR NEWS.

THE WAR ON BRITISH SHIPPING.

Since the outbreak of war the following
British merchant vessels have been
lost by enemy action:—

Sunk by cruisers	54
Sunk by mines	12
Sunk by submarines	46
Total	112

PRISONERS GO SHOPPING.

PRISONERS OFFICERS TELL OF THEIR
EXPERIENCES.

During the Easter holidays the inhabitants of Kieff witnessed the unusual sight of Austrian officers in uniform strolling about their streets. These were prisoners of Slav blood, who have been released on parole, and were allowed freedom of movement within a radius of about a mile, says the *Telegraph's* Petrograd correspondent. The officers walked unconcernedly into shops, where they purchased postcards with views of Kieff. They entered willingly into conversation with anyone who cared to accost them, and narrated their experiences in Przemysl during the siege.

They say that even the officers inside the fortress had no idea of what was happening in the outside world till they became prisoners. News was circulated, but, as they now realise, it was nearly all false.

For instance, they were told that the Germans were in possession of Paris, Warsaw, and Vienna; that the Turks had landed at Odessa, that River Pasha was leading a victorious army onward from Tiflis, that London had been burned down by Zeppelins, and, if the siege of Przemysl continued, it was only because the troops of the Emperor William were occupied with more important operations.

CARDINAL MERCIER'S LATEST MANIFESTO.

Cardinal Mercier has stirred the ire of the tyrant at Paris by issuing another defiant manifesto, this time in the form of a letter to his colleague the Cardinal Archbishop Amette of Paris. German indignation is aroused by the note of inconquerable faith in the future, which the Primate of Malines (or Mecheln, as the German Press insists on calling it) breathes. After explaining how he chafes under the inability to commune personally with his French colleague and give expression to the abounding gratitude which Belgium feels toward the Allies fighting for the restoration of her political and spiritual liberty, Cardinal Mercier writes:—

"The day is nearing, your Eminence—of that I can have no doubt—when full liberty of movement and word will be restored to you and to us. It will then be a great joy to us to be able to exchange, without let or hindrance, the mutual, patriotic, and Christian sentiments which crowd together in our souls at this moment and so ardently crave for expression. May God grant us the money to await this hour of liberation in patience, the hour in which I promise to meet my French colleague at a known point in the Rhine, in Rheims, Paris, and Montmartre."

The *Telegraph's* *Rundschau* thinks Cardinal Mercier's letter shows "how little we have succeeded in making a friend of the Primate of Malines by the immediately delicate and considerate treatment accorded him, or in inducing him in his delicate position, to avoid provocation of German susceptibilities."

"PYJAMAS TO-NIGHT!"

The following extracts are taken from the letter of an artillery officer at the front who has relations in Hongkong:—
March 23rd.—When this reaches you we shall be away from the "cannon's roar," having a rest in billets right out of the firing line and shells. Well, I shall not be sorry for a few days' rest, as it has been a rather trying time, and the battery has been in over a month now. I expect that we shall only have a few days' rest, probably a week, and then come back to the good thing. We crawl out in the dark and go off to our rest billets. It will be a change from the constant change here.

Won't it be great to-morrow night—pyjamas! Considering that I have slept fully clad for three weeks, it's quite a treat to look forward to. Bring in action so close to the trenches, one had constantly to be ready to turn out at any second of the night or day.

March 24th.—I am very tired, for I was up at two this morning and pulled out into rest. . . . It was like old times, sneaking out in the dark. I was very glad when we slipped through a certain village which the Germans have been putting 12 in shells into at odd times night and day. We got through, however, without any untoward incident, and marched on to our rest billets, where we arrived about 7.30 a.m. We are billeted in farm-houses, dirty and indifferent, but it is not so bad. Our servants have cleaned things up and, with windows opened, it has sweetened things up. Sleep in pyjamas to-night. What a luxury! The country is appallingly flat and nearly all under cultivation—very prosperous in times of piping peace, I should say. Personally, I never want to see it again when it's all over.

March 25th.—Such an eventful day! Since last writing I had to shift my billets, as there was a mix-up about them, and I am now a few miles back in a quaint old French village. Raining all day, and I had a long day riding about. However, we are fixed up now all right, and I have my whole battery more or less together. We are living in a house that's not bad—it's really a shop—all messing together, and my boys sleeping in houses hard by. I have got a bed! And it's clean and quite nice! My captain is with me, sharing the room, and we are more or less comfortable. I don't suppose it will be long before we are all back and biffing. It's all in the day's work. Isn't it nice having got on in time for the great battle and to be on the first big show of the season?

I must be very grateful to have come through safe and sound, and all my officers, too, thanks to the good Deity for all His goodness and care of us.

ROMANCE OF THE CHINESE PAGODA.

TOWERS OF GOOD FORTUNE.

A most interesting lecture on the subject of Chinese Pagodas was given by Mr. S. Couling at a meeting of members of the Royal Asiatic Society in Shanghai last week. The lecture was prepared from a French manuscript kindly lent to Mr. Couling by the Rev. Father Beck, S.J., to whom the Society was also indebted for the loan of several Pagoda models which have been on view in the reading room for several days. Mr. Couling suggested that the models ought if possible to be secured for permanent exhibition in Shanghai, and the suggestion is one that might well be followed up. The models are extremely fine in design and construction. They have been constructed at Siccawei, from photographs and measurements of the original in various provinces, and the collection is one which commands the admiration of artists and students, besides being of great practical value. The models are to some extent the originals in every detail, some of the ornamentation being remarkably fine. Part of the collection has gone to San Francisco for exhibition there, and some of those now in Shanghai may follow. The models have attracted a great many visitors to the Museum and the attendance at the lecture was large.

ORIGIN OF THE PAGODA.

Mr. Couling began by saying that the Pagoda is not of Chinese origin, but Persian or Hindustani, and the name means "The abode of Idols." From earliest history there had been Chinese built terraced towers called *t'ai*, but these were only for the enjoyment and aggrandisement of royalty. It was the introduction of Buddhism that the popular erections called *t'ai*, the present pagodas, were put up. There are estimated to be more than 2,000 of these towers in the Eighteen Provinces. None existing in the original construction of the 4th century A.D.—the best are those which have been rebuilt or repaired most frequently or most recently.

The pagoda was defined as a tower generally divided at least externally into stages; contrary to common opinion the shapes and styles might vary widely. Thus square pagodas are numerous all over China; a transitional form, square with the corners cut, is also known; the regular octagon, being the commonest type. Round pagodas are perhaps scarce, and the hexagonal are equally rare. In the Summer Palace, Peking, there is a pagoda whose base is square, the mid part octagonal and the upper part round.

VARIATIONS IN STYLE.

The internal shape sometimes differs from the external; in some pagodas there are two towers one within the other; in some cases the polygonal interior changes to square halfway up. As to the stages, much the commonest number is seven, and the rarest is eleven. The maximum is thirteen, never exceeded except by travel. The number of tiers is also variable, and the division a rule without exception. The division into stages is exterior and does not open at each stage, as in an external balcony with balustrades and projecting roofs. The roofs make the pagodas into beautiful monuments, but where there are no balconies to be protected and therefore roofs are smaller or only mere cornices are found, the pagodas are much more solid and resisting to wind and weather.

The staircases of pagodas were then described, none of them ever being external as in the ancient *t'ai*; and then the terminations of the towers in spires, masts or "mandarin hats" roofs, and the little pagoda bells.

The heights of pagodas are not known with exactness, but under reserve the following were given: Tingchou (Chihli) 380 ft.; Nanjing (Porcelain Tower) 329 ft.; Hangchow, 276 ft.; Canton, 270 ft. and Lungchow pagoda 120 ft.

Porcelain towers were then discussed, and the lecturer also mentioned several pagodas made of iron.

RELATION TO FENGSHUI.

The purpose of these towers was in the beginning entirely religious; but the Chinese acquired a taste for the pagoda part from Buddhist temples and easily found reasons for erecting them. The chief ground for the astonishing commonness of these towers seem to be in the Chinese superstition of *Fengshui*. None can say clearly why pagodas should bring good fortune, but everyone knows they protect a district and ensure health and happiness to the population. At Peking the *Pu-ta* is considered the palladium not of the city only but of the whole country. The Tower at Suzhou was built to ensure the success of candidates from the district in the literary examinations; and many other instances could be given.

—N.C. Daily News.

HANYEHPING CORPORATION.

Mr. Wang, representing the Hanyehping Corporation, has called at the Ministry of Foreign Intercourse and the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, submitting a statement of the Corporation to the effect that the Corporation's indebtedness to the Japanese totals \$24,000,000, which was really money paid in advance by the Japanese on account of purchases from the company and \$9,000,000 which was subsequently obtained as a loan. He suggests that a British loan be arranged to repay the debts due to the Japanese, in order to avoid the covetousness of the Japanese.

We have all heard of the lazy languors of the soft Pacific Isles. An officer of the Australian Forces lately engaged in seizing the German Colony at Nauru (which means Pleasant Island) tells a story of them. Some native employees of a phosphate company were generously given a football to play with after hours. But football to them was toil, not relaxation; so they sent in a bill for overtime.

LORD ROTHSCHILD'S ESTATE.

INTERIM VALUATION £2,500,000.

Probate has been granted of the will, dated May 12, 1914, with a codicil of August 13, of the late Lord Rothschild. The estate has been provisionally returned as of the value of £2,500,000 in net assets, and there is no doubt that it will be some considerable time before the final valuation is filed in consequence not only of the immensity of the testator's interests in various parts of the world, but also on account of the difficulty caused by the war in obtaining definite figures for interests in belligerent countries.

The executors are the late Baron's widow, his son, the Hon. Nathaniel Charles Rothschild, and his brothers, Mr. Alfred Charles de Rothschild and Mr. Leopold de Rothschild. The testator left a life annuity of £5,000 to his eldest son, Lionel Walter, now the second Baron Rothschild, stating that this was in addition to two annual amounts settled upon him under the will of the testator's great uncle, Baron Amstel Meyer Rothschild, and under the will of the testator's uncle, Sir Anthony Rothschild. To his wife he left £100,000, all his jewels and personal ornaments, all his consumable stores at 148, Piccadilly, his town house, absolutely, together with the use for life of that residence, art collection, not of his money or securities, with remainder to his son Nathaniel Charles.

He left all his capital in the firm and accrued income due from his share to his son, Nathaniel Charles Rothschild, and expressed the confident hope and belief that his surviving partners would immediately give effect to his wish to admit his said son as a partner; and he directed that, if such should be the case, his son, on retiring from the business, should make arrangements in his turn for the capital to be withdrawn so as not in any way to incommode the house of N. M. Rothschild and Sons.

Power is given to his trustees to postpone the payment of certain legacies, or to pay them in 10 annual instalments with interest at 3 per cent., but by codicil made soon after the outbreak of war, this period is extended to 15 years, "in view of the state of affairs owing to the war"—15 years being in his opinion the shortest period during which a discretionary power should be given for the payment of legacies having regard to the possible necessity for the withdrawal of a portion of his capital in the firm of N. M. Rothschild and Sons.

The will goes on to empower the trustees to make such gifts or grant such pensions or other persons in the testator's employ or that of his firm at the time of his death, as they in their absolute and uncontrolled discretion may think proper, but so that no person should be entitled to claim as a right any pension, gift, or annuity. If there should be any duty payable on gifts made in his lifetime, such duty is to be paid from his residuary estate.

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

PROPOSED FORMATION IN SHANGHAI.

The N.C. Daily News understands that arrangements have been completed for the formation of a British Chamber of Commerce for Shanghai. Such an institution will not be altogether an innovation, as already a British Chamber of Commerce has been formed in Hankow. The proposed institution will have for its object the protection and furtherance of purely British trade interests in Shanghai and China. It is a longfelt want, as it has often been found that British trade in Shanghai has lacked organization and has suffered on that account. The scheme has already obtained strong support, and is certain to have the cordial approval of all British merchants in Shanghai.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

ORDERS BY LIEUT.-COL. A. CHAPMAN, V.D.

- JOINED.
- 1.—The undermentioned having joined the Corps are allotted Corps numbers and posted as follows:—
No. 1845 Private, P. Tangap to Right Section M. G. Co.
No. 1846 Private, J. Lina to Right Section M. G. Co.
 - 1.—Parades for Wednesday, 19th instant.
6.40 a.m. Right Section M. G. Co.—
Aiming Instruction at Headquarters.
7.40 a.m. Signalling Section—Signalling Instruction at Headquarters.
Remainder, nil.
 - Note.—N.C.O.s. and men on duty at Kowloon on Monday and Wednesday nights will not be required to attend parades on Tuesday and Thursdays.

- DETAIL.
- 3.—On duty at Headquarters and Kowloon.
From 7 a.m. to-day to 7 a.m. 20th inst.—
Left Half Scouts Company.
Officer on duty, 2/Lieut. Murphy.
From 7 a.m. 20th to 7 a.m. 21st inst.—
No. 1 Sec. Art. Batty. and Centre Section M. G. Co.
Officer on duty, Lieut. Kennet.
Orderly Officer for week, Lieut. Preston.
Orderly Sergeant for week, Corp. Carpenter.

G. E. STEWART, Capt.,
Adjutant, H.K.V.C.

POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

The members of the British Company are warned that they are classed as fellows for the Empire Day Musketry Practice:—
Class A.—Hooper, Kennedy, Martin, Roser and Small.
Class B.—Wright, Weiser and Nicoll.
Class C.—The remainder of the Company.
For Championship Shoot.—Champion, Chichen, Cook, Eustace, Evans, Gibson, Grant-Smith, Hynes, R. Rance, Arnott, Bunje, Henderson, Hewitt, Ireson, and Ramsay. Any other members desiring to compete must notify at once.
F. C. JENKINS,
A. S. P. (Reserve).

THE DISCIPLINE OF FEAR.

GERMAN ARMY UNDER THE LASH. [BY THE "EYE WITNESS" AT HEADQUARTERS.]

ETHICS OF DESERTION.

According to a deserter who came in a few days ago, the enemy's bread ration had been still further reduced during the previous fortnight, and now consists of one loaf a day amongst four. This man had been sent back to the front before he had fully recovered from a wound, and considered that he had been hardly treated. He stated that the force deterring many of the men of his regiment from deserting was the fact that they were peasant proprietors in South Germany, to whom desertion would mean the loss of everything they possessed.

Letters received by the German soldiers from their relatives at home are increasingly pessimistic; and great efforts are being made to impress the civil population with the necessity of never referring to the food question when writing to men at the front.

GENERAL MISTRUST.

This incident may not be typical, but that it should be possible at all is eloquent of German methods. Such is the fear of the officers and the atmosphere of general mistrust that the men do not even speak to one another of their grievances for fear that their complaints should reach the ears of their superiors. Of the outward forms and restraints of discipline there is no relaxation even in the trenches. When an officer passes the men must spring to attention and must remain with shouldered arms, without moving a muscle, perhaps for a quarter of an hour, while the officer in question is near them. When they are relieved from the trenches, every spare moment is devoted to drilling and training. The slightest fault is punished with extreme severity, the offenders often being tied to a tree for hours together.

It cannot be denied that these methods appear to suit the German temperament, though their degrading effect is shown by the fact that the longer a man is subjected to them the more brutal does he become. The acts of savagery which have been noted have in most cases been perpetrated by men of the active army or the older men of the Landwehr and Landsturm, who have been trained in the regular army. Indeed, there is a marked difference between the behaviour of these troops and that of those who have been recruited since the war.

It has been stated by one prisoner of intelligence and education that the Bavarians, being less civilized, less refined, and less intellectual than the Prussians, would display greater powers of resistance.

Signs of the evident gullibility of the rank and file have been referred to, but as described by an educated German soldier it almost seems incredible. Those fighting on the Russian frontier are encouraged with stories of victories in the West, while those fighting in the West are similarly supplied with tales of triumphs in the East. Falsehoods, however clumsy, are swallowed with avidity. A few may be announced as having been captured time after time, each occasion being within a few weeks of the last, yet the strangeness of the recurrence of the event will not occur to these hearers of it. When the Germans occupied St. Etienne on March 14 the whole Army was informed of the success, which, it was said, had been achieved without loss, but the fact that they were driven out the next morning was concealed. It was only subsequently that the troops discovered that the casualties amounted to about 800. The capture by the Russians of Przemysl with 45,000 men has been announced officially by the Germans, but the soldiers fighting in the West will not believe that the number of prisoners can be so great. Nevertheless, though it is bound to be seen through eventually, this kind of deception does not appear to have sapped the faith of the German soldier in his leaders, but he is apt to become depressed if he does not frequently receive news of a victory.

THE OFFICERS THEY DESERVE.

In answer to the question of why the brutality on the part of their officers is not more actively resented by men who have shown themselves to be as brave as the German soldiers are, it must be pointed out to them that bullying and the exercise of brute force are only an inevitable part of the whole system by which they live and move and have their being, which has crushed individuality, and moulded mind and body for its own purpose. Indeed, the strength of the German war-machine lies in the fact that this system has met with acquiescence and has been accepted for years. It has in the past filled all ranks with an overmastering sense of its power and invincibility, and whatever its defects may be, has inspired them with absolute belief in success and a sense of collective superiority over the rest of the world. As has been pointed out before, "Death, and all other Ales" is no empty cry; it has become a creed.

The general impression gained from such evidence as can be collected from the men fighting in the field against us is that, though this confidence in themselves has diminished, it can be destroyed only by a defeat which can neither be explained away nor hidden; further, that a defeat of this nature might possibly have an immediate and overwhelming effect on the whole nation and Army and be decisive, for it would strike a blow at the very foundation of German moral.

THE ARMY CONTRACT CASE. DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY.

A LENIENT SENTENCE.

The case came before the Chief Justice at the Criminal Sessions yesterday in which Wong Kam King was charged with that on April 6th he did unlawfully attempt to incite and induce Staff Sgt. Hawkins, chief clerk in the A.S.C., to collude with him in defrauding the Government of a certain quantity of coal to be supplied to the Government. A second count charged him with that on April 15th he did feloniously utter and put off a certain forged undertaking for the payment of money, to wit, an I.O.U. for \$100, purporting to have been signed by Staff Sergeant Hawkins with intent thereby to defraud. In reply to the charges defendant pleaded guilty to the first. As to the second the Attorney-General entered a *nolle prosequi*.

Mr. Eldon Potter appeared on behalf of the defendant.

The Attorney-General explained the facts of the case as given at the Police Court hearings. Defendant contracted to supply the Government with coal, and the first delivery was to be made on April 1st. This first delivery consisted partly of screened and partly of unscreened coal, whereas the contract required screened coal. This was pointed out to him. The second delivery which was made on April 4th consisted of screened coal according to contract. The third delivery was made on April 6th and the events then took place which were the subject of the charges. The Attorney-General read Sgt. Hawkins' account of what happened at an interview which he then had with the defendant, and went on to say that the offer which defendant made of \$100 a month was no unsubstantial one. He then referred to the points which led the Government to view the case as a most serious one. First of all, it was a deliberate attempt to corrupt an officer of good and long service. Defendant mistook his man, but it was not inconceivable that a person might have been found of weak moral sense, and defendant might have succeeded in leading that person into crime and subsequently to discovery, a court-martial and then disgrace. It was obvious, also, that defendant's own illicit gains in the proposed arrangement would have been at least as great as he had offered to the Sergeant. It was a deliberate attempt to defraud the Government, and was unlike the case of a man who was offering a bribe to get someone to assist him in obtaining a contract. It was a deliberate attempt to bribe Sergeant Hawkins and to conspire with him to systematically defraud the Government under the contract, and to attempt to defraud the military authorities was a very serious matter, especially at a time like the present when it was important that all the resources of the Colony should be husbanded. A man who was attempting to defraud the Government in this way at the present time was really helping the King's enemies.

Mr. Potter, on behalf of the prisoner, said that there were certain facts which ought to be put before his lordship. The case was a sad one in many respects because the young man in the dock, up to the time when he committed the acts alleged in the charge, had led an industrious and an entirely honest life. Counsel then proceeded to explain the facts which led defendant to devote for the first time from an honest course. The Attorney-General had submitted that it was a deliberate attempt to bribe Sgt. Hawkins. It was deliberate in the sense that all crime was deliberate, but he thought he would be able to satisfy his lordship that it was not deliberate in the sense that it was thought out and planned at any length of time before the offences were committed. Defendant entered into the coal trade for the first time in February of that year, the firm being the Wing On. Defendant had had no previous experience of the trade, and defendant realised, after he had secured the army contract, that if he carried it out according to the contract he would lose a great deal of money on it. He told Staff Sergeant Hawkins that he could not supply the coal at the contract price without great loss, and that was the cause of the trouble. This young man, who started in this line of business, suddenly found himself in the position in which he must either carry out the contract at a loss, and perhaps at such a loss as to mean his financial ruin, or else he must give up the contract.

In reply to his lordship Mr. Potter said that defendant was the Wing On firm, and went on to say that defendant's right course was obvious, and he would not deny it. When he found that he could not carry out the contract without financial ruin he should have gone to the authorities and told them so, and then asked to be let off. That was the right course, but unfortunately the defendant

went wrong for the first time in his business career, and instead of going to the authorities and pleading for leniency he went to Staff Sergeant Hawkins and offered him a bribe of \$100. The way in which he had met that case was, he contended, consistent with the defendant's previous mode of living and the course he had adopted was taken entirely upon his own initiative. Having been detected he admitted everything, and threw himself on the mercy of the Court.

His lordship called Mr. Potter's attention to the fact that when in the Police Court defendant alleged that Staff Sergeant Hawkins asked him for a loan of \$100, and, furthermore, defendant instructed the solicitor who appeared for him at the Police Court to cross-examine the Sergeant on those lines. That had naturally been published and perhaps suspicious had been roused. He considered that that was a serious element in the case in spite of what he (Mr. Potter) had said as to the defendant making a clean breast of the thing. He did not do so at first, it was obvious.

Mr. Potter remarked that he could announce now that defendant absolutely exonerated Sgt. Hawkins from all criminal connection with the offence. Absolutely no suggestion was now made against Sgt. Hawkins, and the attitude which the defendant now adopted would, he thought, remove all stain and suspicion from the suggestion which was made at the Police Court.

Addressing the defendant, his lordship said that he had pleaded guilty, and he had no doubt he was well advised, to the charge against him. His learned counsel had made an urgent appeal on his behalf, and he was so far to be able to meet it. It was true that defendant was young, and he was prepared to accept the assurance that hitherto defendant's character had been an excellent one. Nevertheless, it was his duty to ensure that a thing that sort should not occur again. It appeared that it was defendant's contract with the Government, and it was urged on his behalf that he entered into a contract which was not going to be remunerative, and he sought to help himself out of the difficulty he was in by attempting to bring about a state of affairs which, if Staff Sergeant Hawkins had been a party to it, would have been a very serious matter for the Government of Hongkong. He, the Chief Justice, felt it his duty to draw attention to the fact that at first defendant made a charge against Staff Sergeant Hawkins to the effect that the money was really money which was loaned to the defendant at his request, merely to give defendant an opportunity of retracting, unreservedly, the suggestion which was made at the Magistrate's. He accepted defendant's assurance that this was not so, but regretted that an allegation of that kind should have been made without any justification. He would deal with the defendant as leniently as possible, as he was anxious that defendant, being a young man, should have an opportunity of retrieving his character when he came out of prison, and he hoped that the short sentence which he was about to pass upon him would inspire him, when he came out of prison, to live as he had done before, in a straightforward and honest manner. He would be sentenced to six months' without hard labour.

ANTI-GERMAN FEELING AT SHANGHAI.

The Shanghai Mercury of the 11th inst. says:—

The latest piece of German brutality—the sinking of the *Lusitania*—which over 2,000 innocent people on board has caused intense indignation and bitterness in Shanghai not only amongst Britishers and their Allies but amongst a considerable number of neutrals, and the consequence is that feeling towards the German members of the community, which has been generally peaceful since the outbreak of hostilities, is now running extremely high. It is recognised, of course, that this is an International Settlement, and that an open show of hostility towards enemy subjects is not desirable, yet at the same time incidents of a displeasing nature are bound to happen. At one of the leading clubs this morning, according to report, quite a little scene occurred between a Briton and a German. The majority of the members of the Club in question are of British nationality and the German in question, on appearing at the club house, was politely informed that, in view of the latest German atrocity, certain members of the club did not desire to be further associated with him. This, however, was promptly shown the way out, and out he went. It is stated that members of certain other British Clubs are agitating for the removal from the list of members of all Germans. Shanghai is peculiarly situated, no doubt, but it is felt that there is no reason why Germans should continue to be members of British Clubs.

With the legation of the Government's tenancy, the White City, in London, at the end of this month, will be devoted to the provision of the factory accommodation so much needed at present. The property erected for the Franco-British Exhibition is specially adapted for this purpose, as concealed within the decorative plaster coverings are main structures of steel, designed to give the maximum facilities for taking in and out large quantities of goods and machinery with the minimum expenditure of time and effort. The buildings are admirably arranged for use either together or separately, and vary in size from 10,000 ft. to 250,000 ft.

SISTER SUSIE'S SEWING— AND A LITTLE HONGKONG ROMANCE.

Until war broke out, and certain good ladies set to work to "do their bit" in this vast struggle of nations, the lady whom I shall hereafter call Susie, for many reasons, was just a charming replica of most young ladies in the East; her existence was not really a lazy one; it was a mixture of good honest rest mingled with tennis and bathing parties, with here and there a bridge "stunt." Frequently, being a most burdensome and practical being, I lectured Susie on her butterfly existence, the non-productive and non-useful mode of her existence, and of her inability to even darn a pair of socks without causing excruciating pain to the one who was unfortunate enough to subsequently wear them. But argument of this kind was always useless where Susie was concerned. She would merely pout two very pretty lips, look extremely sheepish, and then fly into real rage and threaten to throw me from the Peak-side dwelling to the macadamised roads of Hongkong. However, I confess even now that her existence was just a butterfly one, with no ideal beyond a good hard tennis game or a sail with some adventure in it. Had one asked Susie in those degenerate days—she is a different Susie now—let me state—to create a pair of socks, or to produce a man's shirt, the task would not only have been far beyond her limited domestic powers, but the suggestion would have been treated with a scornful laugh, really.

But the Susie of to-day is a new Susie. This fact was emphasised as recently as Sunday last. Sunday being an acknowledged day of rest, Susie and I always looked upon it as the day specially set apart for as much exercise as possible. Quite early on Sunday morning I called on Susie with all the paraphernalia of tennis.

"Are you ready, Susie?"

"No, I shall be busy all day to-day."

"We both shall, my dear girl. So-and-so and so-and-so intend 'wiping the floor' with us to-day, so you buck up and don't forget all my directions when you are up at the net."

"No, my dear boy, I shall be sewing all day; I have two pairs of socks and one shirt to finish off for this week's parcel."

My laugh was cut short by a most scornful look from Susie. "Do be serious; I am not going to play tennis. I shall be sewing all day, so go away."

"But my dear Susie—"

"Oh, please, don't you understand King's English (and this with emphasis)? I am going to be a producer, the butterfly is about to make shirts. Funny, isn't it? Come along with me."

I followed Susie to her "library" and found the table heaped with men's garments in various stages of development, coats, shirts, socks, mufflers, wool caps and so forth, and was forced to realise at once that Susie the butterfly had settled down seriously to the work of war; women's work in war. She also unfolded to me a little romance which had been evolved purely on the initiative of one whom I had looked upon as lacking in all the essentials of this quality. "Read this," she said, handing me a mud-bespattered piece of paper, very crumpled, and with some printed matter relating to jam, etc., on the one side, "straight from the trenches; isn't it fine? And then you ask me to waste my time playing tennis!"

The writing on the slip of paper was big and struggling, and this is what it said:—

Dear Madam,
Me and my pals out here wish to thank you very much for what you are doing for us. I am not much of a chap for writing, but as I found your note pinned to my last new shirt I thought as how I would like to reply. We very much appreciate, me and my pals, what you ladies are doing for us, and when we know that even so far away as Hongkong you kind ladies are doing this for us it makes things go a lot more easy. Until I received your shirt (the one Susie made for him, he means), I had not changed for two weeks, so you can tell what I thought about it. Some of my pals also had little notes in their shirts and socks, and, really, we did not know whether to laugh or cry. We all thank you very much for so kindly thinking of us. We are all well just here.—Yours faithfully,

HENRY THOMAS.

There were big tears in Susie's eyes when I looked up again; I asked to be forgiven for my levity, and for most of that day I sat watching Susie stitching and knitting away with an energy which was surprising. I discovered that, in common with most of the other ladies who are doing their own particular "bit" in the war, Susie also pins little notes containing good wishes, etc., on the garments they make in the hope that it will cheer up the fine fellow in the trenches whom it happens to reach. I also realised the cause of Susie's complete metamorphosis, and admired her deeply for it. Few can

realise more than myself what this means to a young lady of Susie's temperament. She revelled in a succession of tennis parties and new dresses which had to be worn in the sun; a perfect embodiment of goodchalance and living without any real ideal; but very charming all the same. This has been sacrificed, fortunately sacrificed, I may add, and many of her lady friends who previously shared with her the same light existence have shared in the sacrifice. When some young ladies are at tennis the changed Susie and her equally changed colleagues are industriously producing soldier garments, and, personally, I have become quite an accomplished hand at "drawing out the tacking" (that is the correct expression, I think) of finished shirts, snipping off the stray ends of wool from socks of all sizes, and making myself a general nuisance in an employment which is the reverse of anything I have previously been accustomed to.

We make heaps of fun out of the work, but when in a thoughtful mood my heart goes out to those ladies who have readily given up a lot of leisure hours and general social pleasures in order to "do their bit" in war. It is a noble and true-hearted effort, and though another Susie and her socks have been made the theme of a comic song which I often recount to my Susie, the writer was only hiding under a light exterior the same feelings which I also have for the thousands of Susies who are thinking in a most practical manner of the brave men who are ready to make the supreme sacrifice. My Susie is not an isolated example in Hongkong. Many ladies are working really hard each day in order that a regular supply of parcels may be sent from the Colony to the men in the trenches. And the particular Susie I am referring to has—to my way of thinking—done a really good thing for herself. A lady who can make shirts and socks like Susie is quite good enough for me.

I shall tell her so after the war.

C.R.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held yesterday, the President (Mr. G. N. Orme) presiding. There were also present:—The Vice-President (Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G.), the Hon. Mr. E. A. Gordon, Mr. P. W. Golding, Mr. Chan Kai Ming, Mr. Ng Hon Tsz, the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. W. W. Pearse) and the Secretary to the Board (Mr. W. Bowen-Rowlands).

BOOKUN FOO SCHOOL FOR INDIANS. There was a short discussion on the adjourned application for permission to erect six water-closets and eight urinals at the proposed school for Indians at Sookun Poo.

Hon. Mr. Hewitt proposed, and Colonel Gordon Hall seconded, that the application be refused.

Dr. FITZWILLIAMS said he thought this was intended to be a big school, and it would be very deterrent to the hygienic training of the boys if they had to make use of the out-of-date and insanitary conveniences.

The PRESIDENT said it was estimated that there would be about 200 at the School, the bulk of whom would be scholars.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH advised the putting over of the matter until the Public Works Department had been enabled to lay a proper sewer which would not discharge into Causeway Bay. The site of the School was a considerable distance up the valley, close to the Japanese Crematorium, and at the present time there was no sewer. Although some trouble had been taken to estimate the cost of a sewer, he was told that no steps had been taken as yet to construct the sewer.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that under existing conditions it would be impossible to permit the installation of water-closets.

The PRESIDENT—I think it would be advisable to refuse this application, and in the happier days to which some members of the Board look forward, and when a sewer is provided, they can make another application.

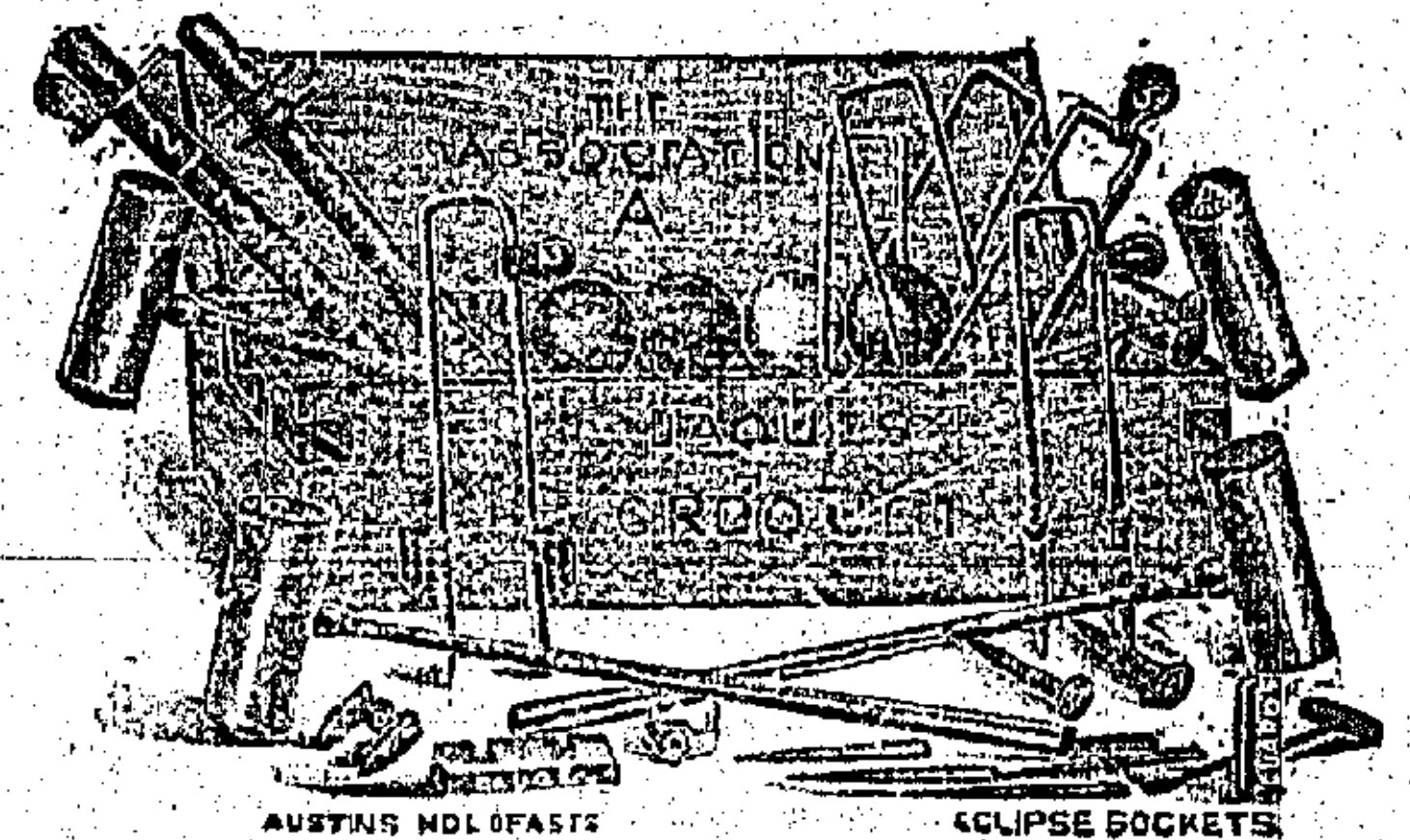
Dr. FITZWILLIAMS moved an amendment that the application be adjourned *sine die*, and Mr. GOLDING seconded.

Four members voted for the motion, and an equal number for the adjournment, and the amendment was carried.

Recently published casualty lists furnish some interesting statistics relating to the average age of officers at the front. Of twenty-six officers who fell during the course of the Neuve Chapelle engagement, ages ranged from nineteen to forty-eight, with an average of a trifle over twenty-nine years.

INTIMATIONS

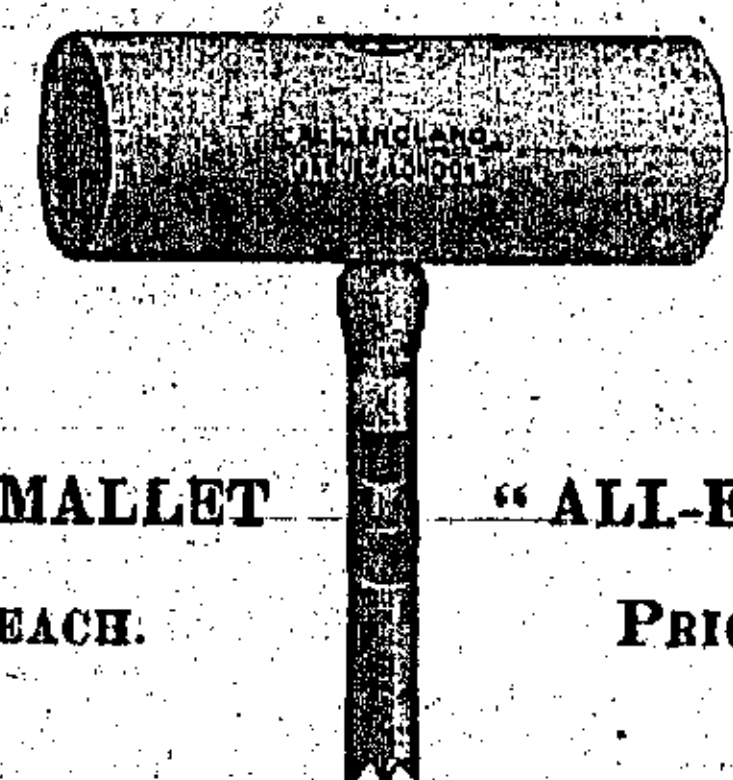
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. SPORTS DEPARTMENT. JAQUES' CROQUET SETS



CONTAIN 4 ASSOCIATION MALLETS (9" X 3").
ASSOCIATION HOOPS, COMPOSITION BALLS,
PEGS, FLAGS, CLIPS, RULES, ETC.,
COMPLETE IN STRONG WOOD BOX.

JAQUES' CROQUET MALLETS.

"EXCELITE"
CROQUET
BALLS.



GLISGLOS
CROQUET
BALLS.

"ASSOCIATION" Mallet

PRICE \$7.50 EACH.

"ALL-ENGLAND" Mallet

PRICE \$5.50 EACH.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

[22]

THEATRE ROYAL.

RETURN AND FAREWELL VISIT.
FOR 3 NIGHTS ONLY.

COMMENCING

THURSDAY, MAY 20TH,

HENRY DALLAS

Presents

R. B. SALISBURY'S CO.

"THE QUANTS."

CHANGE OF PROGRAMME
NIGHTLY

PRICES ... \$3, \$2 AND \$1.

PLANS NOW AT MOUTRIE'S.

COMMENCE AT 9.15 P.M.

Hongkong, 17th May, 1915.

[684]

WESTMINSTER SMOKING MIXTURE.



\$1.00

per 1/2 lb. tin.

\$1.00

per 1/2 lb. tin.

It is a delightfully cool and finely flavoured Tobacco and it has the great advantage of keeping dry during this hot and damp weather. There are many smokers in Hongkong and the ports of South China who give up pipe smoking as soon as the damp and foggy weather sets in, as their pipes become foul. If they will try a tin of this carefully blended Mixture they will find they can enjoy their pipes with as perfect comfort as they do in the cool and dry season.

SOLD BY—

HONGKONG CIGAR STORE.
A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.
KELLY & WALSH, Ltd.
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1915.

1407

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

THE GREEN-NISBET TENNIS MATCH
is POSTPONED until WEDNESDAY
next, the 26th inst.
All Tickets sold available.
P. M. HODGSON,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 19th May, 1915.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
Power of Attorney dated the 23rd April,
1914, given by the Undersigned to Mr. YEUNG
SAI NGAM has been Revoked.
YEUNG TSO FU,
Hongkong, 19th May, 1915. [589]

NOTICE.

ERNEST WILLIAM KNIGHT,
heretofore called and known by the
name of **ERNEST WILLIAM SCHENK**,
hereby gives Public Notice that on the 19th
day of May, 1915, I formally and absolutely
renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use
of my said surname of **SCHENK** and then
assumed and adopted and determined there-
forth on all occasions whatsoever to use and
subscribe the surname of **KNIGHT** instead of
the said surname of **SCHENK**.
And I give further Notice that by a deed poll
dated the 18th day of May, 1915, duly executed
and attested I formally and absolutely renounced
and abandoned the said surname of **SCHENK** and
declared that I had assumed and adopted and
intended thereupon upon all occasions what-
soever to use and subscribe the surname of
KNIGHT instead of **SCHENK** and so as to be at
all times thereafter called, known and described
by the name of **ERNEST WILLIAM KNIGHT** exclusively.
Dated the 18th day of May, 1915.
ERNEST WILLIAM KNIGHT,
late **ERNEST WILLIAM SCHENK.** [514]

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS, LTD.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM UNITED KINGDOM AND
STRAITS.

THE Steamship
"MONMOUTHSHIRE,"
having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees
of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all
Goods are being landed at their risk into the
Inland and/or other Godowns of the
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves
delivery may be obtained.
Goods not cleared by the 25th inst. will be
subject to rent.
All broken, chafed and damaged packages
are to be left in the Godowns where they will
be examined on 25th inst. at 9.30 A.M. Claims
against the Steamer must be presented within
10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be
recognized.
No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in
any case whatever.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
the Agents.
Hongkong, 18th May, 1915. [6]

NOTICE.

MR. R. M. JOSEPH having resigned his
appointment with this Company as from
the 23rd February, 1915, we hereby give Notice
that his Power of Attorney is withdrawn.
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 18th May, 1915. [577]

WANTED.

A YOUNG MAN (British) for the post
of **ASSISTANT DRAUGHTSMAN**.
Must be quick and accurate, accustomed to
Shipyard and General Engineering Work.
Age not to exceed 28 years, health must be good.
Apply, enclosing copies of testimonials and
stating salary expected, to—
THE BANGKOK DOCK CO., LTD.,
Bangkok, Siam. [583]



NOTICE.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that
SEALED TENDERS in Duplicate
which should be clearly marked "TENDER
FOR LEASE OF PART OF OLD
SUPREME COURT BUILDING," will be
received at the Colonial Secretary's Office until
Noon of WEDNESDAY, the 26th day of May,
1915, for the Lease of Certain Rooms on the
Ground and First Floor of Old Supreme Court
Building from 1st June, 1915, to 31st December,
1916, subject to certain conditions which can be
ascertained at the Office of the Director of
Public Works.
Each Tender must be accompanied by a receipt
to the effect that the Tenderer has deposited in
the Colonial Treasury a sum of Five Hundred
Dollars (\$500) as a pledge of the bona fides of
his offer, which sum shall be forfeited to the
Crown if the Tenderer refuses to carry out his
Tender and comply with the above-mentioned
conditions should the Tender be accepted.
Form of Tenders and further particulars can
be obtained from the Office of the Director of
Public Works.
The Government does not bind itself to accept
the highest or any Tender.
W. CHATHAM,
Director of Public Works.
Hongkong, 17th May, 1915. [585]



NOTICE.

ALL Persons applying to the PROVOST
MARSHAL for Passes are requested to
submit to apply between the hours of 8 A.M. to
P.M. and 2 to 4 P.M. daily.
Hongkong, 16th February, 1915. [592]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
TWENTY-SIXTH ORDINARY
GENERAL MEETING of the SHARE-
HOLDERS will be held at the Company's
Office, St. George's Buildings, on SATUR-
DAY, the 22nd May, 1915, at 12 o'clock Noon,
for the purpose of presenting the Report of the
Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to
28th February, 1915, and electing Directors
and Auditors.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 8th May to the
22nd May, 1915, both days inclusive.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 4th May, 1915. [589]

PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS of the
above Company will be held at the Hongkong
Hotel, Hongkong, on TUESDAY, 26th May,
1915, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the
Report of the Directors together with a State-
ment of Accounts for the year ending 30th
April, 1915.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 20th instant to the
27th instant, both days inclusive.
JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 14th May, 1915. [591]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
COLONIAL (Hongkong) REGISTER
of the Company will be Closed from SATUR-
DAY, 1st May, 1915, until SATURDAY, 29th
May, 1915, both days inclusive.
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 26th April, 1915. [548]

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Payment of Interim Dividend on Shares for the
year ending 30th June, 1915.

THE Board having declared an INTERIM
DIVIDEND of ONE SHILLING
per Share free of Income Tax for the year
ending 30th June, 1915, Holders of Bonus
Shares and Holders of Dividend Warrants
received from London on account of Registered
Shares will be paid their Dividend on presenting
No. 5 Coupon of the Bonus Shares, and
Dividend Warrants on Registered Shares to any
of the following Banks at Shanghai or
Tientsin:
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION.
THE CHARtered BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA
& CHINA.
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION.
The Payments will be made in either Dollars
or Rupees as the holder may wish at the buying
rate of Exchange of the day.
GENERAL MANAGER.
KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION.
Hongkong, 15th May, 1915. [582]

YOKOHAMA.

BLUFF HOTEL.

No. 2, BLUFF.
HEALTHY LOCATION AND
BEAUTIFUL VIEW.

EXCELLENT CUISINE AND HOME
COMFORT.
MODERATE TERMS. [348]

FOR SALE.

All kinds of
FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS
ALBUMS,
and other
PHILATELIC GOODS.

at Prices to suit any Buyers.

GRACA & CO.

(Caine Road, No. 11A.)

Hongkong, 1st April, 1915. [465]

NEW CARTRIDGES.

BY popular English Manufacturers
In all Bore and Sizes.
SMOKELESS POWDER and CHILLED
SHOT. From No. 10 to .555G. at \$5, \$7 and
\$7.10 per 100. **SPORTING REQUISITES**
and **AIR GUNS** in Variety.
Inspection Invited.

WM. SCHMIDT & Co.

Hongkong, 4th February, 1915. [508]

A LING & CO.

19, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

FURNITURE and PHOTO GOODS
STORE.
Photographic Goods of Every Description
in Stock.
Developing, Printing and Enlarging.
Canton Marble in Various Shades.
Telephone 1219.
Hongkong, 4th February, 1915. [516]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

HOUSES in "TORRES BUILDINGS,"
"ROSE TERRACE" and "DURBAR,"
Kowloon.
Apply to—
SPANISH DOMINICAN
RECOGNITION.
Hongkong, 12th May, 1915. [501]

TO LET.

A HOUSE at Observatory Villa, Kowloon.
Apply to—
ARRATON V. APCAR & Co.
Hongkong, 10th March, 1915. [393]

TO LET.

GODOWN, No. 6, Duddell Street.
Apply to—
A. B. AVASIA,
Care of E. PARSONS,
No. 1, Duddell Street.
Hongkong, 2nd February, 1915. [344]

TO LET.

GODOWN, No. 94, Praya East.
Apply to—
KWONG SANG HONG, Ltd.,
No. 248, Des Voeux Road Central.
Hongkong, 19th February, 1915. [305]

TO LET—AT THE PEAK.

No. 2, STEWART TERRACE.
Furnished and newly done up.
Apply to—
H. E. POLLOCK,
Princess Building.
Hongkong, 20th January, 1915. [53]

TO LET.

A HOUSE in Kaitake Terrace
Kowloon.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1915. [45]

TO LET.

"WINDSOR LODGE," Kimberley
Road, Kowloon, 6-Roomed House
with Tennis Court.
"PENYRHEW," Minden Row, Kowloon,
6-Roomed House with Tennis Court.
8 and 3, MINDEN VILLAS, Kowloon,
5-Roomed Houses with Tennis Court.
FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon
Terrace, Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.
FLATS in Nathan Road, Kowloon.
A FLAT in Humphrey's Buildings, Kowloon.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE
Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings.
Hongkong, 18th May, 1915. [580]

TO LET.

HOUSES in CLIFTON GARDENS,
Kowloon, 10 and 12, near the junction of the
Kowloon Club and Post Office.
58, THE PEAK "THE RETREAT,"
31, WONG-NEI-CHONG ROAD,
GODOWN, New Praya, Kennedy Town.
GODOWNS, at Wandai Road.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd.
Hongkong, 1st April, 1915. [38]

TO LET.

OFFICES in St. George's Building
Second Floor, overlooking Harbour
immediate possession.
Apply to—
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1914. [39]

TO LET.

THE GROUND FLOOR of No. 6, DES
VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, occupied
by Macao Gains, etc.
Apply to—
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 10th February, 1915. [273]

QUEEN'S BUILDING.

TO LET, the South-West portion of the
FIRST FLOOR, including Treasury
on Ground Floor, lately in occupation of the
German Bank.
GODOWN, No. 9, Ice House Street.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1915. [35]

TO LET.

IN ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS
VERY CONVENIENT OFFICES
and **ROOMS.** Including a Fine Commodious
Suite.
Apply to—
SECRETARY,
A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 28th October, 1914. [38]

TO LET.

"BISHOP'S LODGE SOUTH," No. 11,
THE PEAK, Unfurnished, 5 Rooms.
"WOODBURY," No. 4, Hankow Road,
Kowloon.
No. 1 CAMERON VILLAS, No. 61, THE
PEAK, Furnished, immediate possession.
No. 3 DES VOEUX VILLAS, 52, Mount
Kallet, The Peak (Furnished or Unfurnished).
No. 25, BELLILIOS TERRACE, with
entrance on Conduit Road.
No. 7, BELLILIOS TERRACE, with
entrance on Conduit Road. In very good order.
3 ROOMS, suitable for Offices, 1st Floor,
Queen's Road Central.
"WESTWARD HO," Bonham Road.
"EGGESFORD," No. 124, THE PEAK,
Unfurnished (6 Rooms), from 1st May, 1915.
"MERION," No. 6, THE PEAK, Unfurnished
(6 Rooms).
ROOMS in BEACONSFIELD and 55,
ELGIN TERRACE.
"MOGATE," Austin Road, Kowloon.
No. 2, DES VOEUX VILLAS, 51, PEAK
(Unfurnished).
ROOMS, suitable for Offices, on the First
Floor of No. 3, Duddell Street.
No. 59, THE PEAK (CAMERON VILLAS).
Apply to—
LINSTEAD & DAVIS,
8th Floor, Alexandra Buildings.
Hongkong, 4th May, 1915. [43]

INTIMATION

E stands for Excellent, and anyone
who drinks our **E PORT. E**
SHERRY, E WHISKY
or **E BRANDY** can be in
no doubt that the letter **E**
signifies excellence of a high order
and good value for money. By
buying in bulk from the very best
firms, and bottling ourselves, we are
able to give our customers better
value for money than we could by
importing the same thing by the
case. There is an old saying "Wines
mature in bottle, Spirits in cask."
That is the *raison d'être* of
our magnificent wine vaults, which
challenge comparison with anything
of the kind not only in Hongkong
but the Far East. There our wines
are bottled off soon after they arrive,
but our spirits, except for a small
stock to meet daily requirements,
are kept in wood. That is why our
spirits improve in quality, and
spirits imported in case do not. Our
customers get the benefit of that
increment in value, as we charge
nothing for it. We cordially invite
our customers to pay a visit of
inspection to our wine vaults, and
satisfy themselves the above is
no idle newspaper puff.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

Hongkong Office: 104, DES VOEUX ROAD C.
London Office: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MAY 19th, 1915.

ITALY'S ASPIRATIONS.

The question of the moment is, Will Italy
join in the war? A question of equal
interest is, What good reason has Italy for
abandoning her neutrality which she has
rigorously maintained for the past nine
months? Having regard to the telegrams
which have been reaching us lately, there
can be no doubt of the existence of a
strong national desire to come into the
struggle on the side of the Entente Powers,
notwithstanding the fact that Italy has
hitherto deemed it to be in her national
interests to be in alliance with Germany
and Austro-Hungary. For Italy the out-
look must have changed greatly since the
beginning of the war, and the telegrams
have given us but little information
which throws any light upon this change.
We have been told of the failure of
the diplomatic negotiations with Austro-
Hungary for substantial concessions on
the Adriatic, and it has transpired that
Italy has recently denounced the Triple
Alliance, though there is little to show
that this is entirely due to Austria's
failure to come to an agreement with
Italy. An Italian contributor to the
April number of the *Nineteenth Century*
affirms, indeed, that those who think that
Italy can rest content with realising the
minimum programme of Trent and
Trieste deceive themselves. "So, too, do
those who believe in the success of diplo-
matic negotiation limited to the conces-
sion to Italy of more or less substantial
rectifications of frontier as a reward of
her perpetual neutrality." According to
this writer every Italian feels that Italy
must come out of the present crisis either
very much enlarged and strengthened or
considerably weakened. When Italy
shall call on her citizens, he
says, to make the terrible sacrifice
of war, "Italy intends that it
should result in a complete and definite
settlement of the questions of national
territory and in sufficient compensation
for her traditional Eastern aspirations.
All the anguish of Irredentism must final-
ly disappear. Wherever the Italian

language, Italian life and Italian
traditions exist and have existed for
centuries, such territories must be
gathered under the Italian flag. We
intend, therefore, that the Adriatic ques-
tion should be completely solved in all
respects, while still desiring to come to a
friendly understanding with the Slavs
with regard to all those questions in
which our respective rights are identical
or reconcilable. On the other hand, we
desire that our position as a Great
Mediterranean Power should be
strengthened by our possible intervention
in the solution of the Eastern Question."
With this rather formidable programme
before it the public is able to appreciate
the fact that even were there, no
other reasons holding back Italy
from active intervention on the side
of the Allies, these in themselves,
demanding as they do the most
exhaustive discussion with the Entente
Powers, sufficiently explain why the
Italian Government has not long before
now joined forces with Great Britain,
France and Russia. The *Times* Correspond-
ent at Rome a month ago remarked
that immediate action on the part of Italy
has been forecast so many times by so
many people that opinion both in Italy
and abroad has become sceptical and
impatient. But the correspondent
affirmed, as a matter of fact, that it is not
Italy that has been calling "Wolf, Wolf,"
but those who have tried to prophesy
without understanding the circumstances,
both political and military, and Italy has
suffered from much unfair comment
through no fault of her own. There was
never, he said, more than the slenderest
chance of intervention till the Spring
should be well advanced, the diplomatic
questions fully discussed, and the military
preparations properly completed. Only
the force of circumstances outside Italy
could have induced the Government to
take action before the month of April at
the earliest. "But now the work of diplo-
macy must be nearly done. The mili-
tary preparations are complete, though
it is only very recently that the enormous
deficiencies have been made good." Since
that was written the situation has been
developing all the time towards participa-
tion in the War. According to the
Nineteenth Century contributor, in view
of the programme which Italy's neu-
trality forced the Italians to regard as a
vital factor in the event of their having
to go to war, the country's military prepara-
tion has been carried to the highest degree
of efficiency. "Hundreds of millions
were spent to strengthen our armaments
—the people were asked to sacrifice; them-
selves in order to prepare for the War.
Italy has to-day 1,500,000 men ready,
fully armed and well equipped, both
materially and morally, for the strain
of a war. Our fleet, which was already
efficient before the outbreak of war, has
now been reinforced by the addition of
six modern and very powerful Dread-
noughts. Our military and naval
power constitutes a new and formidable
factor which from one day to another
could weigh down the balance in favour
of one of the two groups of belligerents."
Admitting all this, let us return to the
original question—What reason has
Italy now for intervention? The two
reasons against her intervention have
been (1) the respect due to moral obliga-
tions that still bind her to her allies; and
(2) the absence of a new element in the
European conflict that is in direct contrast
with her immediate interests. "Italy
will declare war," says the *Nineteenth*
Century contributor, "that day on which
one of the above-mentioned reasons shall,
by force of circumstances, cease to exist."
We take it that Austria's refusal to grant
all Italy's demands formulated after the
war has been in progress many months
can hardly be considered to release her
from these moral obligations that bind
her to her allies. The "new element"
in the European conflict which will bring
Italy into the War is the attack on the
Dardanelles with the occupation of Con-
stantinople as its objective. The opinion
expressed by the Italian writer whose
views we have summarised is that the
possible break-up of Turkey is the factor
determining Italian intervention. "Italy
is anxiously asking herself to-day what
her position in the East will be in
relation to the Great Powers which have
in a friendly way arranged the bound-
aries and the extent of their spheres of
influence in the East." It is no secret that
Italy has been seeking to ascertain in
London what return Italy could look
forward to if she should decide to co-
operate with the Entente Powers. Dr. E.
J. DILLON, who has been acting in Rome
as the special correspondent of the
London *Daily Telegraph*, recently remark-
ed that the question had given rise to a
sharp journalistic controversy, in which
these delicate questions had been handled

in some cases in an extremely maladroit
manner, and he added that proposals were
being pressed forward by neutralist
organs "of a nature to bewilder reason-
able men." This remark would particu-
larly apply to some proposals put
forward in the *Stampa*, the organ of
Signor Giolitti, whose "manœuvres" we
are told in a telegram to-day have made
the Italian people indignant. The
Stampa has been warning the Govern-
ment of the danger that may accrue to
the nation from an accord made with the
Allied Governments without first insist-
ing upon favourable terms, clearly
expressed and ratified. Among these
inducements we find not merely the
Trentino, Istria, the Dalmatian Archi-
pelago, Valona, and Adalia, but also
Corsica, to be ceded by France, and
Bizerta to be dismantled. Intervention-
ists inquire how the party which, for
sake of an entente with Austria was ready
to forego its claims to Trieste, to the most
important part of the Trentino, to Pola
and Fiume, and to the command of the
Adriatic, can expect such exorbitant
terms for collaboration with the Powers
without whose goodwill Italy's future can
never be secure. Whether any under-
standing between Italy and the Entente
Powers has been reached on the subject
of a *quid pro quo* for Italy's intervention
remains a close secret of the chancelleries
concerned. There is this difficulty in the
way: the Entente Powers now at war
appear to have no pre-arranged scheme
for the division of the spoils of war, and
Italy would naturally be expected to
co-operate in the same spirit of trust,
though on the points she deems vital to
her national interests the making of a
conditional agreement may not present
insuperable difficulties. Italy's decision,
if it has not already been made, cannot
much longer be delayed.

A mail for Europe via Siberia closes
to-day at 4 p.m.

The *s.s. Luertes*, which arrived yester-
day from Saigon, brought 4,400 Chinese
skeletons in boxes for burial in China.

The Chief Officer of the *s.s. Tungshin*,
G. S. L. Gamby, has reported to the
police that some person has stolen \$100 in
notes from a drawer in his cabin.

The Green-Nisbet tennis match which
was to have taken place this afternoon
has had to be postponed again on account
of the weather until next Wednesday.

At the Criminal Sessions yesterday a
Chinese named Chui Cheung, who was
charged with throwing corrosive fluid on
a Chinese woman named Ip Duk, was
found not guilty and discharged. He
was undefended.

Mr. R. B. Salisbury's Company of
Entertainers designated "The Quaints"
are on their return to the Colony giving
only three performances—to-morrow night
and Friday. There will be a different
programme each night, and we have no
doubt the pleasant memories left by the
little Company on their visit to Hong-
kong some weeks ago will ensure for
them full houses.

A difference between three Chinese
women about a sum of \$210, which
was the price of pork purchased for
a joss to the "Queen of
Heaven," led to the three women ap-
pearing at the Magistracy yesterday
on a charge of assault. Faced with the
majesty of the law the women repented,
the money was paid, and the parties left
the Court at peace with one another and,
presumably, pleasing in the sight of the
"Queen of Heaven."

The following official notifications con-
cerning Consular appointments in the
Far East are published in the *London*
Gazette:—The King has been graciously
pleased to appoint Harold Porter, Esq.,
to be His Majesty's Consul for the Con-
sular District of Wuhu, to reside at
Wuhu; Claud Cecil Augustus Kirke,
Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul for the
Consular District of Wuchow, to reside
at Wuchow; and Leslie Harry Rupert
Barr, Esq., to be one of His Majesty's
Vic-Consuls in China.

TENNIS MATCH POSTPONED.

The game which was to have been played
to-day between Green and Nesbit has
had to be postponed for the second time
on account of the ground being in an
unfit condition. The game has now been
fixed for Wednesday next, and all the
tickets which have been purchased for the
game will be available for the postponed
date. When the game is played it should
easily rank as one of the finest
which has been seen in the Colony.
Green has secured the Championship
this season, and Nesbit is a very
old champion who always plays
well in a game of the character which
will be played to-day. The keenness of
the struggle need not be emphasised,
and according to the bookies there will be
a record crowd present. The proceeds are
to be given to the Prince of Wales Fund,
which should benefit very considerably as
a result.

THE WAR.

INTERVENTION OF ITALY IMMINENT.

HEAVY FIGHTING ON WESTERN FRONT.

IMPORTANT BRITISH SUCCESSES.

THE ZEPPELIN RAID.

ANOTHER ABORTIVE ATTEMPT AT "FRIGHTFULNESS."

GENERAL.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALY AND WAR.

INTERVENTION IMMINENT.

Rome, May 18th.

The majority of Italians consider that immediate war is now inevitable. It must be remembered that the King refused to accept Signor Salandra's resignation "for the sake of God and our country." When the Italians realised that Austria had offered ridiculously inadequate concessions and that the Triplice was denounced they rose indignantly against Signor Giolitti's manoeuvres and showed the King unmistakably their military aspirations, and none doubted that the King, whose heart beats in unison with the people, would fail to meet the wishes of his subjects.

AUSTRIAN AND GERMAN MINISTERS DEPARTING.

Rome, May 17th.

The newspapers announce that the departure of the Austrian and German Ambassadors is imminent. Two special trains are held in readiness to convey them to their respective countries.

HUGE DEMONSTRATIONS.

Rome, May 17th.

There have been demonstrations on a huge scale in the Italian cities, the populace rejoicing at the return of Sig. Salandra. It is emphasised that the crisis has resulted in the uniting of Italy under the national flag.

Rome, May 18th.

'Anti-German feeling is high. The municipality proposes to alter the German-named streets. The Italian, French and Russian flags are flying everywhere.

GERMANY AND THE SITUATION.

Amsterdam, May 18th.

The most influential German newspapers declared that war with Italy can hardly be prevented, and they assert that Seniors Salandra and Sonnino have entered into an agreement with the Entente. It is reported that already one and three quarter millions of Italians are mobilised.

FRENCH SUCCESS IN CAMEROONS.

Paris, May 17th.

The French had a brilliant success in the Cameroons, capturing Escka. Our losses were insignificant, while the enemy's losses were serious.

TURKS' ATROCITIES.

MASSACRE OF 6,000 ARMENIANS.

London, May 17th.

A telegram from Urmiah on the 15th inst. states that 6,000 Armenians have been massacred at Van. The Armenians are now defending themselves against the Turks and Kurds, but help is urgently needed.

THE KING AND THE DERBY.

London, May 17th.

All His Majesty's Derby horses have been scratched, except Sammarco.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANS MENACED WITH ENVELOPMENT.

EVAQUATE ALL POSITIONS WEST OF THE YSER.

Paris, May 18th.
1.50 a.m.

The evening communiqué states:—

The enemy in Belgium, menaced with complete envelopment by our successes, evacuated last night all their remaining positions west of the Yser.

We maintained all our positions on the east bank.

The British, north of La Bassée, who were attacked by the Germans very strongly on Sunday night, continued to fight victoriously on Monday. They carried several trenches and inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy.

A detachment of 700 Germans, was caught between the British machine-guns and the German artillery, and was entirely exterminated.

The British took a thousand prisoners, and also machine-guns.

A thick fog in north Arras prevented action, but sharp fighting was continued on the slopes of Lorette, where all the German counter-attacks were repulsed.

We attacked Ailly Wood at dawn today, and carried several German works. We captured three machine-guns and 250 prisoners.

FURTHER BRITISH SUCCESS.

GERMANS ANNIHILATED BY THEIR OWN ARTILLERY.

London, May 17th.

Field-Marshal Sir John French, in a bulletin, says:—

The first Army to-day had further successes to the south of Richebourg and Lavoue, all the German trenches along a front of two miles being captured. Several bodies of Germans surrendered voluntarily to our troops, who continue to fight with great gallantry and determination. One of these bodies, in attempting to surrender, was caught by German artillery and practically annihilated.

The numbers of prisoners taken have not yet been ascertained, but 550 have been cleared to the lines of communication.

THE FRENCH ADVANCE.

Paris, May 17th.

To-day's communiqué states:—The French have continued their advance at Hetsas, and captured, yesterday evening, a fortified house. Eastward of the canal advances were made beyond the first German line, the French taking prisoners and machine-guns. A counter-attack completely failed.

A sanguinary blow was inflicted upon four German attacks at Lorette, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

The Germans hoisted the green Ottoman flag at Bailly, doubtless hoping to impress the French Mohammedan and African troops. We promptly replied to a fusillade and captured the flag.

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HOW LIEUT. ASTON DIED.

"BEHAVED MOST GALLANTLY."

The late Lieut. Aston, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, made many friends in Hongkong while the regiment was stationed here, and they will read with deep and sympathetic interest the following tribute to his gallantry on the field of action paid by Colonel Tuson in a letter to Lieut. Aston's father:—

21st March, 1915.

My dear Aston,—I am writing to let you know as far as I can the facts about your son. He was on the Mound near... on the 14th instant together with Batson and some men, when the Germans, who had evidently been mining under it for some time, blew it up together with 2 or 3 of the trenches held by us. Your son was wounded almost at once in the hand, and a little later when the Germans advanced in force he was again badly wounded in the left side. He would not allow any one to hand him up or help him away, but continued to give out ammunition and to issue orders until the enemy were practically round them. Sergt-Major Hanwright and a corporal, the last to remain, he ordered back, refusing all help. They both state that he was very badly wounded.

On the following morning the Germans allowed our stretcher-bearers to go up and collect the wounded, one of whom stated that he was lying not far from your son when he was shot through the head. I must tell you, however, that this is circumstantial evidence, as none of us have been able to talk to the wounded man, Corporal Grimdale, who has gone down to some base hospital. There is therefore just a chance that he may have been taken by the Germans, who appear to have behaved most humanely to the wounded, giving them tea and covering them over with their blankets.

Your son behaved most gallantly and has been mentioned in despatches and recommended for the D.S.O.

I am afraid there is a very faint hope that your poor son is still alive, but there is just a chance.

I cannot tell you how all sympathise with you and your family. He was such a splendid boy and so much loved by every one. We all feel his loss tremendously.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) H. D. TUSON,
Colonel, D.C.L.I.

THE "TJIMAH" ASHORE.

STRANDED ON THE PARACELS.

The China-Java-Japan line steamer, *Tjimah*, bound from Saigon for Hongkong with a cargo of rice and some Chinese coolies, went ashore on the North reef of the Paracels at 8 p.m. on the night of the 14th inst.

The Norwegian steamer *Frithjof* (Captain Kristensen) spoke the stranded vessel and went to her assistance. Failing to tow her off the *Frithjof* took off the passengers—one saloon passenger and some coolies—and brought them to Hongkong. The Captain and crew remain on the stranded steamer.

The *Tjimah* was left for the scene of the wreck on Monday night, taking Mr. Fess, the Company's marine superintendent, and Mr. John Lambert, Lloyd's surveyor, together with divers and salvage gear.

The *Tjibodas*, which is due in from the North to-day, will also go down to assist in the salvage operations.

RED CROSS SALE IN LONDON.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE OBJECTS OF ART.

The sale of Oriental porcelain and objects of art, and of English and other furniture, at Christie's on 15th ultimo realised a total of £2,537. The first section was Chinese porcelain, and among the chief prices made in it were:—Mr. Philip L. Agnew's pair of Nanking oviform jars and covers, 8½ in. high, £32 10s. (Walter); Mr. Asher Wertheimer's pair of Chinese famille-rose figures of a deity, Kien-Lung, 11 in. high, £29 7s. (Mr. Davis); Mr. George B. Davies's pair of Chinese carved garden seats, 18 in. high, Kien-Lung, £35 14s. (Harding); Messrs. Durlacher Brothers' Chinese famille-verte vase and cover, 17 in. high, Kang-Hsi, £39 18s. (Larkin); Mr. G. Eumorphopoulos's Chinese fish bowl, 15 in. high, 20½ in. diameter, probably Sung, £37 10s. (Sparks); Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Benson's pair of Chinese crimson vases, 12½ in. high, £21 10s. (Amor); the Marquess of Lansdowne's Chinese oviform vase, 12½ in. high, £20 5s. (Horniman); Lord and Lady Northcliffe's pair of jardinières, 10½ in. high, Kien-Lung, £28 7s. (Mrs. Crail); Lady Battersea's Chinese cloisonné enamel cistern, 18 in. diameter, £23 2s. (Mrs. Coutts-Michie). The highest price of the day was £220 10s., paid by Mr. Amor for a Chinese twelve-leaf lacquer screen, 8 ft. high, Kang-Hsi, an anonymous gift; and a twelve-leaf lacquer screen, 7 ft. high, presented by Col. Colquhoun, brought £40 18s. (H. J. Simmons).

THE RUBBER OUTLOOK.

Presiding at the meeting of the Bikan Rubber Estate, Mr. H. Eric Miller said the prospects for rubber were remarkably good. The demand in the market was a strong one. News from America indicated that the buying power there would be very considerable, and the quantity of rubber which was being used by the various countries at war was much larger than was generally realised.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, April 13th.

CONGRATULATION, CONDOLEMENCE AND CO-OPERATION.

Mrs. Asquith is credited with the summary of the situation. "Life in these times consists in having to congratulate, to console, and to co-operate." Whether she said it or not, the summary is a fair description of the situation.

There are war marriages, with their congratulations, and war charities with their condolences, and last of the great their co-operation. The only first-rank marriages—in fact, the only one this season—was that of Mr. Primrose, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Lady Victoria Stanley, daughter of the Earl of Derby. It attracted an enormous crowd of sight-seers and the congregation was one of quite uncommon distinction, but one could not help being struck by the graver air that had come over such ceremonies since the war began. Such social affairs in recent years had tended to become rather disorderly, with people standing on chairs and gossiping loudly in the church; but on this occasion the chief difference between the atmosphere and that of a memorial service was provided by the more cheerful music.

DR. LYTLETON'S LARFE.

Dr. Lytton, of Eton College, is a charming man, with a mind working along a high plane of altruistic belief, but he is obviously unsuited for this rough and tumble time. He delivered an address at St. Margaret's Westminster, which may be summed up in a line—"Be kind to the Germans after the war." The theory has been rejected by all and sundry with a warmth of feeling and a directness of expression that must have startled even the genial "head" in his study seclusion. Peace and "kindness to Germany," as a matter of fact, seem provocative utterances to those who have been to the front, lost sons and husbands and brothers, visited the Belgian refugee camps, or heard from relatives in Germany of the devices of the gentle Huns to make life miserable for "English swine-herds" in concentration camps. We do not go around clinking our beer mugs and crying in humourless solemnity "God punish Germany"; we believe rather that "Heaven helps those who help themselves."

THE TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONERS.

There are from ten to fifteen thousand prisoners—British, French, Belgians and Russians—in concentration camps in Schleswig alone, and their treatment is so bad, especially the treatment of the British, that even some of the German's in the localities concerned have been moved to protest. The only respite from brutality and degradation is to be found by fortunate ones who are hired out to farmers for agricultural work. Many of the farmers in Schleswig are Danes, and they treat the prisoners well and feed them satisfactory, but in the camps themselves the conditions are so bad that the Mayor of one place publicly stated that the inhumanity was a disgrace to the German nation. The German government pays a contractor one mark twenty pence for each prisoner's daily food, but that is for the whole supply, so the contractor farms out the contract to smaller men, and the prisoner gets but a fraction's worth of the sum named. Hoggish conditions are the result. It is to be hoped that a commission of ten Americans, appointed on the appeal of the American Ambassador in Berlin to visit the camps, will be able to bring about some real improvement.

THE SUFFRAGETTES AND THE WAR.

The suffragettes are in transports of joy because the war has brought to them some measure of official recognition. The well-known lady doctor, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, has been made a Major, and selected lady doctors are to do medical work among the troops. Some of the suffragettes are so optimistic about the outcome of these activities that they predict that all women will be voting in the second general election after the war. That, I think, is unduly sanguine, but there can be no doubt that if they continue to run their militancy exclusively against the Germans, and for the men in and out of the trenches, they will find their path to the polls much smoother than it was when they spent their afternoons scratching policemen's faces, and their evenings trying to evade the prison-guards.

Experienced observers and sociologists foresee, however, a thorn even on this rose, for they fear that after the war women will be admitted to many avenues of activity hitherto avoided by them, and many will deliberately choose labour instead of motherhood. It is this shrinking of maternity that some predict will prove the real danger for England, for Germany and Russia will continue the great child-rearing nations in Europe, while France and England will have an ever decreasing birth-rate.

WOMEN AND THE WAR.

Curiously enough, Mrs. Pankhurst to-day is in agreement with most of us, regardless of sex. She has been invited to take part in a women's peace congress at the Hague, but she has declined the invitation with commendable vigour, and has bluntly told the meddlers that

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JOFFRE AND FRENCH.

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDERS CONTRASTED.

An interesting first-hand impression of General Joffre and Sir John French is given in the *Times* from a correspondent who has recently visited each in his headquarters.

Pere Joffre, who has the destinies of France in his hands, received the correspondent at the appointed hour to the minute in a tiny room with a long narrow table covered with a white felt top, probably sixteen long by twelve wide, perfectly plain, and most likely one of the servants' offices in the hotel days of the hotel where his headquarters are situated.

JOFFRE'S DAILY ROUND.

He arrives in this room at 6.30 every morning, and at seven he has a conference with the six leading officials of the General Staff, or Grand Etat Major, General Pellé, and his two aides, both generals, and three other officers. At this conference all the reports and dispatches of the night are gone through and discussed, and orders given for the day.

Lunch is served always at eleven, and always consists of the same articles of food—eggs and cutlets—after which, at twelve o'clock, there is another conference. At one the General goes out till four. He either walks or drives, generally in the adjacent woods.

At 3.30 there is the third conference, attended by the same people, and at nine punctually, no matter what happens, the General goes to bed. The rest of the day he stays in his room poring over the maps. He stays all the time at his headquarters, save once a week about, when he goes to the front to inspect the troops or to see generals.

GREAT PERSONALITY OF THE WAR.

Joseph Joffre is gradually emerging as the great personality of the war. Every German prisoner captured knows the name and fame of "Shoofler." Frequently in the little messages that the Germans shoot with bows and arrows into the French lines with the remark, "Ask your General Joffre why he is letting you Frenchmen get killed for the sake of the English." There is an idea always floating in the German mind, from the highest quarters in the Wilhelmstrasse to the trenches in the Wever, that Germany will be able to effect a separate peace with France. Should there exist in that deluded nation of seventy millions any single individual with a knowledge of French psychology, a glance at Joffre should be sufficient to teach him otherwise.

THE HOUR AND THE MAN.

Often in your discussions, the war that was to be, we had whispered, "Yes, but will the French produce a man?" One basic fact in this matter is that the French have in this matter is that the French have thrown up a man and the Germans have not, a man who will assuredly, with the help of his Allies, drive the Germans back to the Rhine and secure the basis of a permanent peace, together with gigantic indemnity necessary for the payment of the damage daily being done to France.

The French army has been idle during the winter; it is unable to move, say the Germans. Has it been idle? Joffre, with one eye to the long line of trenches from Switzerland to within gun sound of Calais, has spent the winter perfecting his army, storing his munitions, quadrupling his artillery, ruthlessly condemning men and material, indefatigably protecting the machine that must have the greater part in combating in the land battles. Stinging, patient, resolute, unyielding, his personality is only gradually getting known in his own France.

SIR JOHN FRENCH.

THE IDOL OF HIS TROOPS.

Sir John French is an old friend, but the John French of the Club, the drawing-room, and the hunting field and the French of the great war are two entirely different personalities. Sir John is a little greyer than he was before the war. But the man is the picture of health, and how much to-day of the world's future depends upon the health of Joseph Joffre and John French!

Like Joffre, French is extremely methodical in his habits, and the daily round of the two men is very similar, except that Sir John lives the life of a simple English country house in the unpretentious dwelling of the leading lawyer of a small French town.

THE SIMPLE LIFE.

I can vouch for it that life at British Headquarters is as unpretentious as is Sir John French himself; the easy breakfast, without formality, of English life, the lunch—as often as not a paper packet of sandwiches eaten in a motor-car out near the trenches, a good simple dinner quickly disposed of, and bed for some by ten and a long night's work for others, such to his appointed task, but a long day of incessant work.

It is not too much to say that Sir John French is as valued by the British troops in Flanders as is General Joffre by the men in the long, long line that starts from Switzerland. Nor is it a misuse of words to state that in the opinion of his German enemies, and our French and Belgian Allies, Sir John French's tactics in the great battle of Ypres place him in the ranks of the greatest of commanders. When he gets his shells we shall hear more of him and his splendid and enthusiastic army.

BRITISH MAIL TO THE EAST.

It has lately, says the *Christianian*, correspondent of the *London Morning Post*, been a subject of considerable discussion in the Norwegian Press that the heavy English mail arriving via Bergen and Christiania has recently been forwarded eastwards by being loaded into Swedish wagons at Christiania, and sent via Gothenburg, instead of following the more direct route via Charlottenburg and Stockholm. Owing to this arrangement, one made by the Swedish postal authorities, the mail to Russia and Asia is delayed 24 hours. This is due to the desire of the Swedish authorities to attract the British mail traffic to the Gothenburg system, thus competing with the expeditious Norwegian route established some considerable time ago.

The Norwegian Press takes exception to the proceeding, as being detrimental to Norwegian interests, and discrediting the Norwegian transit system in the eyes of the world, and the newspapers demand the immediate re-establishment of the former system. I may add, however, that the Norwegian authorities are in conference with those of Sweden and are discussing the whole question.

THE STRICKEN POLES.

M. PADEREWSKI'S MOVING APPEAL.

A moving appeal on behalf of the stricken patriots is made in a letter to the newspapers by M. Paderewski, who writes from 11, Haymarket, the offices of the Polish Victims' Relief Committee, of which Miss Laurence Alma-Tadema is the hon. secretary.

The present terrible war is, on the Eastern front (writes M. Paderewski), raging exclusively over Polish soil. It is sweeping away every sign of civilisation, destroying dwellings, devastating fields, gardens, and forests, starving and exterminating human beings and animals alike.

An area almost equal to that of England and Scotland together has been laid waste. Two hundred towns, 1,400 churches, 7,500 villages have been completely ruined. The losses in property destroyed and in agricultural, industrial, and commercial production brought to a standstill amount to £500,000,000.

A total of 17,000,000 inhabitants are continuously enduring the horrors of this gigantic struggle; over 10,000,000 people, most of them belonging to the laborious, peace-loving rural population, have neither shelter nor bread.

Nobody could picture in imagination the size of the calamity which has befallen our unfortunate country, once a mighty and glorious kingdom. No one could put into words how appalling is our distress.

A few weeks ago I appealed to my friends, humbly asking them to help my so cruelly-stricken nation. With a promptitude and generosity for which I can never be grateful enough they responded to my appeal, and responded in such a way that I should be feeling the proudest and happiest of men were the occasion not so tragically sad.

But, however noble are the hearts of my supporters, however great their generosity, the means they kindly put into my hands will relieve but a limited number of sufferers. And there are millions of families helpless, hungry, perishing.

In the face of such a disaster my individual effort must remain inefficient. Only a great wave of mankind's pity can surmount so immense a wave of human misery. I know the sacrifice imposed upon the liberality of the British people, and yet I am certain that there is no soul in this magnificent country who would condemn me for asking:

"Some seed for the Polish farmer!"
"Some bread for the Polish women and children!"

THE ARMING OF MERCHANT SHIPS.

Admiral Sir Cyprian A. G. Bridge, writing to the *Times* last month, said:

"According to the German wireless report, which you publish to-day, the Berlin Foreign Office has informed the German Ambassador in Washington that the excuse for murdering the passengers of the *Paluba*, some of them women, is that our merchant vessels are provided with guns and may be expected to defend themselves if attacked. This, the Berlin Foreign Secretary alleges, is contrary to international law."

If anyone in the United States is inclined to believe this allegation, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt can guide him better. Amongst the many claims to distinction of Colonel Roosevelt not the least, in the eyes of seamen, is that he is the author of one of the best works on naval history ever published. His history of "The Naval War of 1912" is marked by clearness of expression, careful preparation, and honourable impartiality. He makes it plain that providing merchant vessels with armament so that they might defend themselves against attack is a very old custom of the sea and one accepted as quite in accord with international law. Speaking of the American Mercantile Marine, he says (p. 31 of his third edition):

"The barques that sailed from Salem to the Spice Islands kept their men well trained, both at great guns and musketry, so as to be able to beat off either Malay proas or Chinese junk. The New York ships, loaded for the West Indies, were prepared to do battle with the pirates that swarmed in the Spanish Main; while the fast craft from Baltimore could fight as well as they could run. French, Spaniards, Algerines, Malays, from all alike our commerce suffered; and against all our merchants were forced to defend themselves."

The custom of arming merchant vessels lasted a much longer time than most shore-going people seem to be aware of. I myself, during the British blockade of Archangel in the Russian war, boarded a German merchant vessel and, if I remember right—Goldschmidt colours (blue with a red cross), which had an armament of carriage guns and muskets and cutlasses for her crew. Many of our naval officers who served on the Pacific Station will remember the armed vessels *Otter* and *Beaver* belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company. Both of these vessels were armed. There were many others so equipped.

GERMAN PRESS ON ENGLAND'S MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY.

The *Hamburger Nachrichten*, which is entitled to the Iron Cross as the most energetic later of England in the German Press, remarks:

Lloyd George enumerates England's enemies (their importance increasing in the order mentioned) as follows:—Austria-Hungary, the German Empire, and Russia. But the worst and most dangerous enemy of England he has named at all, viz., himself, his Ministerial colleagues, and the whole aggregation of adventuring, irresponsible, professional politicians who support them. Will the English see who their worst foe is? Hardly. They are completely befogged and living in a state of dizziness. The loquacity of her political leaders is a much more perilous poison than rum. The end of the war must teach them who their real enemy is.

SHIPPING NOTES.

It is stated in a Japanese paper that the repairs to the Great Northern S.S. Co's *Minnesota* are estimated to cost about a million yen. Her bottom has to be completely renewed and the work is expected to occupy five weeks.

The s.s. *Durandart*, recently refloated at Seitou (Tsingtao), is undergoing repairs to her deck and engines and is expected to be completed about the middle of this month. She will leave there for Sasebo under her own steam, escorted by a Japanese warship, about the end of this month.

Close in the track of the *Unkai Maru* No. 4 (chartered by the South Sea Development Co.), which left Japan recently for Australia, the Japan Transportation Co. has trip-chartered the s.s. *Europe Maru* No. 2, 4,700 tons, meat, and the s.s. *Asahi Maru*, 4,500 tons, meat, at Y.23,000 and Y.20,000 per month respectively, for the Australian service; the former serving as a carrier for the American Trading Co. and the latter for Messrs. Strome & Co., Kobe.

A new B. and S. steamer for the China coast trade arrived in port yesterday. She bears the name of *Sinkiang* and has a displacement of 2,700 tons. Her dimensions are: length 300 ft.; beam 41 ft. She has four holds with a depth of 24 ft. 6 in. She was built at Messrs. Scott's Engineering and Shipbuilding Works, Greenock. She is fitted with triple expansion engines and is capable of a speed of eleven knots. Her commander is Captain C. C. Williams, and Mr. Manthie is Chief Engineer.

The *China Times* reports:—Since the establishment of the branch office in Shanghai of the Chinese Trading Company of the Philippines, the trade between Shanghai and the Philippines has been greatly developed and Wang Wenton of that company is now negotiating with the merchants in the Philippines for the establishment of a Chinese Steamship Company to run steamers between Shanghai and the Philippines. The Intendant of Shanghai has shown great interest in the attempt and has consented to ask the Central Government to give support and at the same time to write Chinese Consuls in the South Seas to give facilities in negotiating with American authorities.

Out of eight N.Y.K. cargo-boats, all of 7,500 tons class, six vessels are now working the European service and the remaining two—s.s. *Tokugawa Maru*, now being built at the Kawasaki Dock, Kobe, and the s.s. *Toyama Maru*, now under construction at the Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Yard, Nagasaki, will be completed in the course of the next few weeks. The N.Y.K. originally contemplated that these two vessels should call at Dairen and Shanghai on their way to Europe for loading purposes, as the company's *Wakana Maru* and *Takada Maru* did recently, but has now abandoned this intention, says a Japanese paper, and will despatch them from Japan next July on their maiden voyage to Europe, in order to serve better the convenience of Japanese shippers.

The s.s. *Gishan Maru*, 3,777 tons, owned by Messrs. Tatsumi & Co., Dairen, which was the first tramp vessel to leave Japan for Europe after discharging cargo at British ports, duly arrived at New York and left there on April 16th last for Japan, via Panama Canal. The N.Y.K. European cargo-boat *Tokugawa Maru*, 6,000 tons, the first Japanese steamer to negotiate the Canal last autumn, was scheduled to leave London on May 6th, for New York whence to sail for Manila, via Panama for the second time. The s.s. *Kongona Maru*, 5,405 tons, of the Liaotong Steamship Co., Dairen, is now at Valparaiso, Chili, loading a cargo of cubic nitre, and will leave shortly for Philadelphia and New York, via Panama Canal, to discharge the above cargo at the former port. She will pass through the Canal again on her return trip to Japan, via Manila. The above-mentioned three vessels are expected to load at N.Y. cargoes of petroleum.

A recent Dairen (Dalny) shipping report contains the following remarks:—European Service: Manchurian beans and bean cake, Japanese copper, war supplies, etc., continue being shipped in a large quantity to Europe, and the long-felt dearth of tonnage has not yet been remedied. This is perhaps because the bulk of vessels can hardly scrape up return cargoes even to the extent of one-third of their loading capacities. The import of shipbuilding materials from London, etc., however, has put on a rosier aspect.

Trans-Pacific Service: The recent accident to the Great Northern liner *Minnesota* has materially interfered with the smooth movement of cargoes. General merchandise is one of the chief exports from Japan, whilst raw cotton is one of the chief exports from America.

Australian Service: This service is now realizing flattering returns on both home-ward and outward trips. General cargo, matches, etc., are being shipped from Japan, whilst wool, timber, etc., are being brought in from Australian ports.

Indian Service: The N.Y.K. and the B.I.S.N. Co. are the only companies to work the Japan-Indian service at present. Vessels are now sorely needed for shipment of Bombay raw cotton to Japan.

China Service: The anti-Japanese demonstrations at Shanghai, Tientsin, etc., have largely dampened the reanimation of China shipping circles. The import of cowhide and rapeseed cake from Shanghai and cowhide, wool, animals' bones, etc., from Tientsin is going on somewhat briskly.

SHIPPING IN PORT.

STEAMERS.

ANNA, Norwegian str., 1,017, T. Odner; 16th May—Bangkok 9th May, Rice, Thoresen & Co.
ATAGORAN MARU, Japanese str., 2,532, K. Kawamura, 14th May—Miike 7th May, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
CHEVRO, British str., 1,226, Speed, 15th May—Bangkok 6th May, Rice—Butterfield & Swire.
CHIPSING, British str., 1,109, Walker, 15th May—Hongkong 12th May, Coal—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
CHUYUN, Chinese str., 477, Ross, 4th May—Shanghai 30th April, General—Chinese.
DALINY MARU, Japanese str., 690, Murakami, 16th May—Swatow 14th May, General—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
DERWENT, British str., 1,562, J. Jenkins, 16th May—Saigon 13th May, Rice and General—Chinese.
DEMOCRACY, British str., 4,259, A. E. Dodd, 7th May—Singapore 2nd April, General—Butterfield & Swire.
ERISA, Norwegian str., 875, E. Fingelsen, 18th May—Newchwang 8th May, General—Chinese.
FUKU MARU, Japanese str., 3,087, H. Chisaki, 14th May—Mojji 8th May, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
HALMA, Norwegian str., 1,660, A. Sveen, 14th May—Seliman, Borneo, 5th May, General—Java-China-Japan Lijn.
HIROSHI MARU, Japanese str., 2,915, S. Fujisaki, 12th May—Mojji 6th May, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
HINSHANG, British str., 1,880, A. O. Kennedy, 9th May—Sandakan 2nd May, Timber—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
HOPBANG, British str., 1,350, C. A. Robertson, 13th May—Bangkok 2nd May, Rice—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
KORSA, American str., 5,631, A. W. Nelson, 17th May—San Francisco 14th April—Pacific Mail S.S. Co.
KURANO, British str., 2,077, F. Wheeler, 14th May—Kobe 9th May, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
KWANGSEI, Chinese str., 1,488, C. McArthur, 14th May—Shanghai 11th May, General—Chinese.
KUMOW, British str., 1,520, E. Forsyth, 14th May—Tientsin 7th May, General—Butterfield & Swire.
KURANO, British str., 2,109, R. C. D. Bradley, 15th May—Singapore 9th May, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
LOKANG, British str., 870, D. W. Ritchie, 8th May—Haiphong 8th May, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
TAISHAN, Chinese str., 1,200, Westerlund, 17th May—Shanghai 13th May, General—Chinese.
TONG LEE, Chinese str., 692, M. Honda, 15th May—Bangkok 7th May, General—Chinese.
TONGSHAN, British str., 2,267, G. W. Muir, 16th May—Chingwantao 8th May, Coal—Doddwell & Co.
TONGSHING, British str., 1,173, L. Hussey, 16th May—Saigon 12th May, Rice—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
YINCHOW, British str., 1,298, Jones, 16th May—Shanghai 12th May, General—Butterfield & Swire.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-MORROW.

9.15 p.m.—Henry Dallas at the Theatre Royal—"The Quaints."
Saturday, 22nd May—
Noon—Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.
Tuesday, 25th May—
Noon—Peak Tramways Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at the Hongkong Hotel.

HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

Hongkong Observatory, May 18th.

	Previous Day at 2 p.m.	On Date at 6 a.m.	On Date at 2 p.m.
Barometer	29.83	29.77	29.76
Temperature	76	76	85
Humidity	72	96	79
Wind Direction	East	East	WSW
Force	4	3	3
Weather	4	edf	o
Rain	0.45		

Highest open air Temperature on 17th.. 77
Lowest open air Temperature on 17th.. 73

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 19th to 25th May.

HIGH WATER		LOW WATER	
Day of Week	Time	Day of Week	Time
Wed. 19	10.06	Thurs. 20	11.45
Thurs. 20	10.56	Fri. 21	11.45
Fri. 21	11.45	Satur. 22	12.11
Satur. 22	12.11	Sund. 23	12.48
Sund. 23	13.48	Mon. 24	14.14
Mon. 24	14.14	Tues. 25	14.51

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THINK for just one minute of the utter uselessness of suffering with Neuralgia! For only Re. 1 you can procure a bottle of LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM, and even the first application of the Balm will bring you relief from the torturing pain! Continue its use. Rub it in where the pain is, and the pain will quickly go! Those hideous, horrible, heart-sickening hours of misery will give place to comfort, of peace and health. Do not doubt. Do not falter. Do not hesitate. Do not continue to suffer. GO NOW, or send to the nearest Chemist or Medicine Vendor and ask for a bottle of Little's Oriental Balm. Sold at 1s. 4d. per bottle.

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Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.
[417-25]

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Cargo carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN (Natal), EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Siam of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

PROPOSED SAILINGS.
From Hongkong: 23rd May, Connecting with "SWRAT".
From Colombo: 17th June.
EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION FOR 1ST AND 2ND CLASS PASSENGERS.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN LINE.

Regular Direct Service from JAPAN, CHINA and STRAITS to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN, calling at MAURITIUS en route, and affording the Quickest Freight Transport from the ORIENT to SOUTH AFRICA.

PROPOSED SAILING.
From Hongkong: "SALAMIS" 25th June.
FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATION FOR PASSENGERS.
Fitted with WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.
For Rates of Freight and Passage, apply to

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"ELLERMAN" LINE.

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MARSEILLES, LONDON AND LIVERPOOL.

For Steamer Sails.
MARSEILLES & LONDON... "CITY OF NEWCASTLE" On 27th May.
MARSEILLES, LONDON & LIVERPOOL "NETHERBY HALL" On 22nd June.

Subject to change without notice.
For rates of freight and further information apply to

THE BANK LINE, LTD.,
GENERAL AGENTS.
Hongkong, 13th March, 1915.

[363]

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THE PATENT SLIPWAYS taking vessels up to 3,000 tons displacement, providing conditions for repairing ships with most efficient results.
100-Ton ELECTRIC CRANE ON QUAY—ELECTRIC OVERHEAD CRANES throughout the Shops ranging to 100 Tons.
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Dockyard Managers, can be seen between the hours of 11 A.M. and 12 Noon at the Town Office.

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REGULAR FORTNIGHTLY SERVICE BETWEEN
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STEAMER	FROM	EXPECTED ON OR ABOUT	WILL LEAVE FOR	ON OR ABOUT
* TJIKEMBANG	JAPAN	12th May	JAVA	13th May
TJILIWONG	—	in port	JAVA	15th May
TJIBODAS	SHANGHAI	19th May	JAVA	21st May
TJIKINI	JAVA	2nd half of May	—	—
* TJIMANOEK	JAPAN	26th May	JAVA	28th May
TJILATJAP	JAVA	2nd half of May	JAPAN	—

* Wireless Telegraphy.

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and have accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers. All steamers carry a duly qualified surgeon. Cargo taken at through rates to all ports in Netherlands India and Australia.
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JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.
York Buildings, 1st Floor, Hongkong, 10th May, 1915.
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[8]

THOS. COOK & SON.

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BAGGAGE collected, forwarded and insured at lowest rates.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES ISSUED and CASHED, FOREIGN MONIES Exchanged.

Cook's "FAR EASTERN TRAVELLER'S GAZETTE," containing Sailings and Fares from the Far East to all parts of the World, will be forwarded free on application.
CHIEF OFFICE:—LUDGATE CIRCUS, LONDON, E.C.

[133]

